VZCZCXRO3162 PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH DE RUEHKO #0699 0882224 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 292224Z MAR 09 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1854 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY RUYNAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3211 RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5551 RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0942 RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3751 RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7003 RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8484 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2770 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4512 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4378 RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000699

SIPDIS

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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>OIIP KMDR KPAO JA</u>
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

- 11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included the results of two recent public opinion polls, both of which showed public dissatisfaction with DPJ President Ozawa's decision to stay on as party leader despite his top secretary's indictment on Tuesday for a violation of the Political Funds Control Law.
- 12. "Prepare Well and React Calmly" The liberal Asahi editorialized (3/27): "The Japanese government will issue an 'order to destruct a ballistic missile' today in response to North Korea's recent announcement to launch a 'satellite.' It is clear that the launch, if it actually occurs, will violate the UN Security Council resolution calling on North Korea to halt all activities related to a ballistic missile program... It is reasonable for the Japanese government to make preparations for any possible emergencies. It is necessary, though, for the government not to cause unnecessary anxiety among the Japanese people... It is true that North Korea's intention is unclear. However, it would be too extreme to claim that a missile will be aimed at Japan... The government should make preparations in a calm manner."

POST